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1) **Which competent person shall inspect the works during the implementation of the solution?**

a) NHBRC Home Inspector
b) Structural engineer
c) Geotechnical engineer
d) Architect

Correct Answer:

✓ **c) Geotechnical Engineer**

Explanation:

During construction, the ground conditions encountered in excavations must correspond with those assumed during design. The Geotechnical Engineer inspects the works to verify founding levels, soil consistency, and groundwater presence. This inspection ensures that unsuitable soil conditions are identified early and that the designed foundation solution remains valid throughout construction.

Reference: SANS 10400-H, Foundations

2) **Masonry walling shall not overhang concrete slab of raft foundations by more than**

a) 10mm
b) 15mm
c) 20mm
d) 30mm

Correct Answer:

✓ **c)20mm**

Explanation:

Raft slabs are designed to distribute loads uniformly over a large area. Masonry walls must therefore sit centrally and fully supported on the slab. Excessive overhang causes eccentric loading, which introduces bending stresses at the slab edge. This can result in slab edge cracking, differential settlement, and vertical cracking in the masonry wall above. The 20mm limit ensures the wall load is transferred safely into the slab without overstressing the concrete.

Reference: SANS 2001-CM1, Page 21, Par 4.3.3.2

3) **Which of the following bricks should be wetted before placed?**

a) Concrete bricks
b) Sand lime bricks
c) Clay bricks
d) None of the above

Correct Answer:

✓ **c) Clay ricks**

Explanation:

Clay bricks are highly absorbent due to their manufacturing process. If laid dry, they draw water rapidly from the mortar, preventing proper cement hydration. This results in weak bonding, poor strength, and early

cracking. Wetting clay bricks before laying controls suction, allows the mortar to cure correctly, and ensures long-term durability of the masonry.

Reference: SANS 2001-CM1, Page 21, Par 4.3.2.1

4) **Vertical chases in solid units shall not exceed.....or leaf?**

a) 1/4 of the thickness of the wall
b) 1/3 of the thickness of the wall
c) 1/2 of the thickness of the wall
d) None of the above

Correct Answer:

✓ **b) 1/3 of the thickness of the wall**

Explanation:

Vertical chases remove material from masonry units, reducing load-bearing capacity. Limiting chases to one-third of wall thickness ensures services can be installed without compromising structural stability or causing cracking.

Reference: SANS 2001-CM1, Page 45, Par 4.12.4

5) **What is the minimum anchor embedment for a heavy roof type on a solid unit?**

a) 150mm

b) 300mm
c) 400mm
d) 600mm

Correct Answer:

b) 300mm

Explanation:

Heavy roof systems generate high gravity and wind uplift forces. A 300mm embedment allows roof anchors to develop sufficient bond strength within solid masonry units, ensuring that uplift and lateral forces are safely transferred into the supporting walls. Inadequate embedment can lead to anchor pull-out, roof displacement, or catastrophic roof failure during strong wind events.

Reference: SANS 10400-K, Table 30

6) **What is the minimum anchor (Roofties) embedment to masonry for heavy roofs?**

a) 300mm
b) 150mm
c) 120mm
d) B and C

Correct Answer:

a) 300mm

Explanation:

Roof ties restrain the roof structure against uplift and lateral movement. Heavy roofs require deeper embedment to resist higher tensile forces. A minimum embedment of 300mm ensures structural continuity between roof and wall systems and compliance with NHBRC durability and safety standards.

Reference: SANS 10400-K

7) **Class H4–H6 it's for timber hazard bio classification?**

a) Hazard very high
b) Medium Hazard
c) Low Hazard
d) Not applicable to soil class

Correct Answer:

a) Hazard very high

Explanation:

H4 to H6 timber is designed for severe exposure environments, including ground contact and marine conditions. These hazard classes require heavy preservative treatment to prevent rapid biological deterioration.

Reference: SANS 10005